

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1 to 12, 19 to 25 and 29 to 35 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 29, 32 and 34 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 29, 32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,321,270 (Crawley), and Claims 2 to 8, 10, 11, 20 to 25, 30, 31, 33 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Crawley in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,913 (Fitler). The rejections are traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

The invention claimed herein provides the ability for administrators to track only specific types of changes made to a directory in a directory server. In this regard, the invention established plural multicast groups in which the administrator can register as a member for any one or more of the groups. Each multicast group corresponds to a particular type of change made to a directory of a directory server. For example, one multicast group that is established is known as an ADD multicast group. This multicast group corresponds to ADD changes only such that registered members of this particular multicast group will only receive a multicast message regarding a change to the directory server if the change is one in which an entry in the directory has added. Thus, each time that an entry is added to the directory, only those members who have registered with the ADD group are notified of the change. As will be explained in more detail below, this is in stark contrast to the prior art, in which all nodes included in a network topology receive notification of all changes made to the directory rather than only receiving notification for select types of changes.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is a method for multicasting changes made in a directory server which contains information within a directory and makes a change to the information in the directory in accordance with a directory change operation, comprising the steps of establishing plural multicast groups, each multicast group corresponding to a respective change category for a type of change made to the directory in the directory server, and submitting change information responsive to a change being made to the directory in the directory server, the change information being submitted to each member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups corresponding to the change category for the type of change made to the directory in the directory server.

Independent Claims 32 and 34 are method and computer-executable process steps claims, respectively, that are along the lines of Claim 1, but which are more specifically directed to A method for providing notification of changes made in a directory server which contains information in a directory and which makes a change to the information in the directory in accordance with a directory change operation, comprising the steps of establishing plural groups each corresponding to a respective change category for a type of change made to the directory in the directory server, and in response to a change being made to the directory in the directory server, providing notification of the change to each member which belongs to a selected one of the plural groups that corresponds to the change category for the type of change made to the directory in the directory server.

Independent Claim 9 is a method for obtaining change information from a directory server which contains information within a directory and which makes a change to the information in the directory in accordance with a directory change operation,

comprising the steps of registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, each of the plurality of multicast groups corresponding to a respective change category for a type of change made to the directory in the directory server, and receiving from the directory server, change information submitted to each member which belongs to the multicast group corresponding to the change category for the type of change made to the directory in the directory server.

Independent Claim 29 is a computer-executable process steps claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 9.

Independent Claim 12 is an apparatus for multicasting changes made in a directory server which contains information within a directory and which makes a change to the information in the directory in accordance with a directory change operation, wherein plural multicast groups are established such that each multicast group corresponds to a respective change category for a type of change made to the directory in the directory server, comprising a processor for executing executable process steps, and a memory medium storing executable process steps, wherein the executable process steps comprise (a) generating change information responsive to a change being made to the directory in the directory server, wherein the change information corresponds to the type of change made to the directory, and (b) submitting the change information to each member which belongs to a selected one of the plural multicast groups corresponding to the change category for the type of change made to the directory in the directory server.

Independent Claim 19 is a computer-executable process steps claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 12.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. Specifically, the applied art is

not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of establishing plural groups/multicast groups each corresponding to a respective type of change category for a type of change made to a directory server, and when a change is made to a directory of the directory server, submitting change information to each member which belongs to one of the plural groups/multicast groups corresponding to the change category for the type of change made to the directory.

Along the same lines, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups each of which corresponds to a respective change category for a type of change made to a directory in a directory server, and the registered member receiving change information submitted to each member which belongs to the multicast group corresponding to the change category for the type of change made to the directory in the directory server.

Crawley simply fails to teach any of the forgoing features and therefore, the invention is not anticipated by Crawley. In this regard, Crawley discloses that, when a change (any change) is made to a network topology, new control information is sent to each node that is to participate in a multicast session. One of the nodes acts as a control point and stores a database that includes a network topology, which includes control information. When the control information is established in the control point node, the control point node multicasts the control information to all of the other nodes in the network topology. Thus, Crawley multicasts the new control information to all nodes, regardless of whether the type of change made to the directory is an add change, a delete change, etc. That is, there is simply no correspondence whatsoever in Crawley between the type of change made and who is to receive the change information. Specifically, Crawley simply fails to provide any disclosure of establishing plural multicast groups, each corresponding to a particular

type of change category for a type of change made to the directory, much less that the nodes register as members of the multicast group corresponding to the type of changes that they want to receive. Accordingly, the invention is simply not anticipated by Crawley.

In view of the foregoing, it can clearly be seen that Crawley fails to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of independent Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 29, 32 and 34, and therefore, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Fitler is not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of Crawley. In this regard, Fitler merely discloses that different groups corresponding to different departments within an enterprise are established to receive multicast messages, where the groups are based on such items as location, department, etc. That is, when a multicast message is intended to be transmitted to personnel that are part of the Engineering department, a multicast message is transmitted to members of Engineering. Thus, while the receivers of multicast messages may be determined by members a group, the groups are not established, nor do they correspond to, a change category corresponding to a type of change made to a directory of a directory server. Thus, a combination of Crawley and Fitler also would not have resulted in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, all of Claims 1 to 12, 19 to 25 and 29 to 35 are believed to be allowable.

REQUEST FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Applicant respectfully requests a personal interview with the Examiner prior to issuance of a first action on the RCE accompanying this Preliminary Amendment. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative prior to taking up action on this case.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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